

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3-10 are pending in the present application. Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitation of "wherein the reinforcement nonwoven does not extend the entire longitudinal length of the absorbent article." Support for this amendment is found in the specification, as exemplified in Figure 2a. Claim 11 has been added to include the limitation of "wherein the reinforcement nonwoven does substantially overlap the containment assembly, whereby the reinforcement nonwoven provides topsheet-like benefits." Support for this amendment is found in the specification, as exemplified in Figure 2b. Claim 12 has been added to include the limitation of "the reinforcement nonwoven having a tensile strength of at least 80 gf/cm in the traverse direction of the absorbent article." Support for this amendment is found in the specification, as exemplified on page 15, lines 8-10. It is believed these changes do not involve any introduction of new matter. Consequently, entry of these changes is believed to be in order and is respectfully requested. Claims 1 and 3-12 remain in the present application.

Rejection Under 35 USC 102(a) Over [reference]

Claims 1 and 3-10 have been rejected under 35 USC 102(a) as being anticipated by Saisaka. Applicants have herein amended claim 1 and added claims 11-12 in such a manner that they believe distinguishes the present application over the relied upon prior art.

CONCLUSION

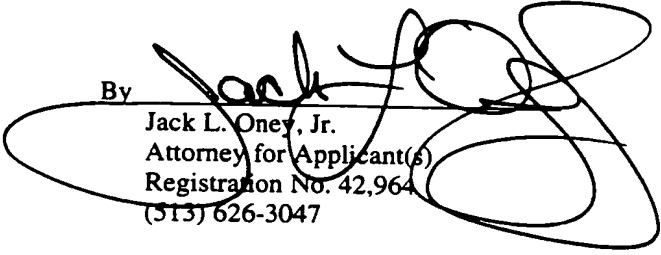
In light of the above amendments and remarks, it is requested that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection under 35 USC 102(a). Early and favorable action in the case is respectfully requested.

Applicants have made an earnest effort to place their application in proper form and to distinguish the invention as now claimed from the applied references. In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application, entry of the amendments presented herein, and allowance of Claims 1 and 3-12.

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